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Pembroke
LD 1073

I support Bill 1073! My name is Jason Barrett and as someone who has spent a significant portion of his life dealing with mining issues and about three years fighting against commercial metallic mining in Pembroke, ME, I wholeheartedly support Bill 1073. Historically, mining companies will not hold themselves accountable. There is no profit in it for them, so they turn a blind eye to any pollution or safety violations until they either get caught or the residents of the area find out and have to pay, both financially and with their health, after the mining company has moved on to another project. Every metallic mineral mine in the world has polluted. There are too many places in Maine's current metallic mining law that specify the mining company should self-report any safety or environmental violations, but they have no incentive to do so. Do you think the fox will self-report if he finds out there's a hole in the floor of the chicken coop just because you tell him he should? We need to codify into law as many requirements as we can that ensure mining companies will be monitored by outside agencies and that the mining company should have to pay for the monitoring. Last I checked, and I could be wrong, there are only two people employed by the Maine government monitoring any type of metallic mineral mining and they work in other as well. I'm sure they do the best job they can, but they can't be everywhere at once, which is why the mining company should have to pay for independent monitoring, instead of the state bearing the burden. Additionally, there should be a much more substantial amount required to be given to the state to hold if remediation is required due to mining pollution, whether it is during or after the project. I spent just about every free minute of my life fighting against the mining company that wanted to come into Pembroke. Time and time again I watched them tailor their comments to whatever they thought the audience they were speaking to wanted to hear. Speaking to investors they would say that Pembroke had the potential to be a major project for them that would produce profit for years. Speaking at town meetings in Pembroke and Dennysville they would say that the project probably wasn't going to amount to much so there was no reason for people to worry. They would also state that if they did start mining in either area it was going to provide the people with lots of high paying jobs and it would be the cleanest mining operation the world had ever seen. Currently, every metallic mining operation in the history of the world has polluted, but technically the one of them that has polluted the least has to be considered the cleanest right? I don't normally support more laws or more government, but we need as many laws as possible that control and regulate metallic mineral mining and hold the mining companies responsible when they pollute or have safety violations.